

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****APR 24 2006**

Law Offices of

**CHAPMAN AND CUTLER LLP
Intellectual Property Department**

111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603

Telephone 1•312•845•3000 FAX 1•312• 701•2361

Direct Dial 1•312•845•3919 Direct Fax: 1•312•803•5299

FACSIMILE COVER PAGEThis transmission consists of 8 page(s) including cover page.

Please call (312) 845-3734 if you have any problems with this transmission.

Date: Monday, April 24, 2006To: Examiner: Luke D. RATCLIFFE Group Art Unit: 3662Firm/Company: United States Patent and Trademark OfficeFax Number: 571-273-8300From: Robert J. Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383 Matter Number: 1715465Serial No. U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/756,855 Extension: 3919

Comments:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION ATTACHED.

Robert J. Schneider

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY: The information contained in this facsimile transmission is confidential information which may contain information that is legally privileged and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. The information is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this facsimile transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for the return of the original transmission to us.

Receipt Confirmed By: _____

U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/756,855
Attorney Docket No. 1715465

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

In re Patent Application of:

Examiner: RATCLIFFE, Luke D.

APR 24 2006

Fumio OHTOMO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3662

Serial No.: 10/756,855

Confirmation No.: 3405

Filing Date: January 14, 2004

For: ELECTRIC DISTANCE METER

FILED VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Greetings:

The following is filed in timely response to the final Office Action mailed on February 3, 2006, wherein the Examiner:

1. Rejected Claim 1 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,692,023, in view of *Brown*, U.S. Patent No. 3,967,111.

2. Rejected Claim 2 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Barna et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,452,666.

2029997.01.02
1715465

3. Rejected Claim 3 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Akasu*, U.S. Patent No. 5,179,286.

4. Rejected Claims 4 and 5 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Haruyama*, Japanese Publication No. 10-285227.

5. Rejected Claim 7 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Ishikawa et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,891,624.

6. Rejected Claim 8 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Ichikawa et al.*, Japanese Publication No. 6-51062.

7. Found Claim 6 allowable if rewritten to be independent of the rejected base claims.

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.